



ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Confidence Level Estimating and Budgeting

NASA wants all of its projects to be successful, both technically and programmatically. NASA leadership understands that NASA projects are technically challenging, and to ensure success, it believes all projects should demonstrate that their plans accommodate risks. To help ensure this occurs, NASA now requires cost and schedule range estimates and associated probabilities of meeting those numbers at KDP-B for all projects that have an expected life cycle cost in excess of \$250M. At KDP C, the Agency requires that all projects and tightly coupled programs (with an anticipated Life Cycle Cost in excess of \$250M) be budgeted to a 70 percent joint cost and schedule confidence level. This presentation will explain the policy in more detail, the acceptable ways these calculations should be done, and the lessons learned to date.

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Mr. Coonce is NASA's Director of the Cost Analysis Division within the Independent Program and Cost Evaluation office. He is responsible for discovering the root causes for cost and schedule growth, establishing cost estimating policies, training NASA personnel to develop credible cost and schedule estimates, and collecting and disseminating NASA historical project cost, technical and schedule data. He and his staff also develop cost estimates and analyses for other NASA organizations.

Prior to joining NASA, Mr. Coonce served as a Supervisory Operations Research Analyst with DoD's Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG) within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Prior to joining the CAIG, Mr. Coonce served as a cost analyst and software development manager with three consulting firms and the U.S. General Accounting Office. He has over 37 years experience developing cost estimates and cost and technical databases.